United Nations A/70/818–S/2016/317

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 April 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 97
General and complete disarmament

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Kazakhstan has been fully committed to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security since the first day of its independence. We recognize that the threat of the use of nuclear weapons by State and non-State actors remains one of the main challenges that humanity faces today. My country will therefore use every opportunity to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. We also acknowledge the role of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the main international structures responsible for nuclear security and safety.

At the same time, the Nuclear Security Summits have contributed significantly to and supported the United Nations and IAEA in accomplishing the common goal of a safe and secure world. Our President has participated in all four Summits, and we thank the Government of the United States and its President, Barack Obama, for their initiative to launch the Summit process. We are confident that implementing the recommendations adopted at the Summits in Washington, D.C., Seoul, The Hague and last week, again in Washington, D.C., will greatly increase nuclear security worldwide. For our part, Kazakhstan will spare no efforts to realize them.

I therefore have the honour to submit herewith a fundamentally new security paradigm document authored by Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, entitled "Manifesto: the world, the twenty-first century", put forward at the fourth Nuclear Security Summit (see annex).* This is a landmark milestone that expresses the momentous stand on the issues of war and peace, in particular the threat of a nuclear apocalypse in the event of the failure of the international community to promote and advance a total ban on nuclear weapons.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of General Assembly, under agenda item 97, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Abdrakhmanov**
Ambassador

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Manifesto: the world, the twenty-first century

by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan

April 2016

Humanity hoped that the twenty-first century would herald a new era of global cooperation. This, however, may turn out to be a mirage. Our world is once again in danger and the risks cannot be underestimated.

The threat is a deadly war on a global scale.

Our civilization, by scholars' estimates, has survived more than 15,000 wars, approximately 3 every year. Hundreds of millions of people have died, cities and countries have been destroyed and cultures and civilizations have vanished. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, stunning scientific discoveries are being made and new technologies are being invented. The world is on the verge of the fourth Industrial Revolution. Many horrific diseases are being successfully eradicated. But the virus of war continues to poison the international situation. It drives the military-industrial complex, which, in some countries, has become the most powerful sector of the economy. It may even, in the future, infect the development of artificial intelligence. Militarism has deeply penetrated our minds and behaviour. There are more than 1 billion small firearms in the hands of people. Thousands of civilians die every day from their use. We cannot exclude the risk that this military threat could become a tragic reality on a global scale. We can see the signs of such a terrible outcome. In international relations, the risk of conflict has increased. Conflict has engulfed the historic battlegrounds of the two world wars: Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is not fulfilling its purpose. Nuclear weapons and the technology that produces them have spread all over the world due to double standards of the main Powers. It may be just a matter of time before they fall into the hands of terrorists. International terrorism has gained a more sinister character. It has moved from isolated acts in individual countries to large-scale terrorist aggression across Europe, Asia and Africa. The exodus of millions of refugees and the destruction of sites and historic monuments have become an everyday reality. Economic sanctions and trade wars are commonplace. Our planet is now on the edge of a new cold war, which could have devastating consequences for all humankind. This threatens the achievements of the past four decades. As a result of successful negotiations, the nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia have been reduced substantially. Five nuclear Powers have announced and kept a moratorium on nuclear-weapons testing. The process of forming regional security systems has accelerated. A unique and comprehensive security structure, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, was created on the principles of mutual trust. Coordinated action between world Powers and United Nations peacekeeping operations saw many conflicts end. However, today we are witnessing the erosion of these international security achievements. This is an increasing and serious concern for millions of people.

How will the world situation develop? Could the tensions between the leading world Powers escalate into a new long-term confrontation? Which country could be the next victim of the so-called "proxy wars" between the world and regional Powers? Which territory, flourishing for now, will be torn apart by tank tracks and explosive shells? In which cities will children die under heavy rocket fire? From where and to where will the refugees fleeing conflicts migrate next? More than 60 years ago, two prominent scientists, Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell, presented their manifesto, in which they asked "a dreadful but an inescapable question: shall we put an end to the human race or will mankind be able to renounce war?"

The most brilliant minds of the twentieth century have warned the people that, in a future world war, nuclear weapons will inevitably be used, leading to the destruction of all life on our planet. Their demand that disputes between countries cannot and should not be resolved by military means remains hugely relevant in the twenty-first century. To end all wars is the most challenging task for our civilization. But there is no other reasonable alternative. This task has to be treated by world leaders as the highest priority on the global agenda. In the twenty-first century, humanity must take decisive steps towards demilitarization. We will not get another chance. If this objective is not achieved, our planet will end as a graveyard of radioactive materials. Our planet is unique. We have no other home.

It is why we need a new comprehensive programme: "Twenty-first century: a world without wars".

Through this global strategy, we need to identify joint and responsible actions to be taken by all nations in order to destroy the virus of war. This document should be based on three main principles. First, there will be no winners in any modern war; everyone would be on the losing side. Second, a new war will inevitably entail the use of weapons of mass destruction. This will lead to the destruction of all humankind. It will be too late to argue over who is responsible for this catastrophe. This threat must be understood by all current and future national leaders and politicians. Third, the main tool for resolving all disputes between States should be peaceful dialogue and constructive negotiations on the basis of equal responsibility for peace and security, mutual respect and non-interference in domestic affairs. Taking all this into consideration, the world community must take comprehensive action towards these goals.

First, there must be gradual progress to a world free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. An important step, to which Kazakhstan made a significant contribution, has already been taken in the right direction. On 7 December 2015, the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration for the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, put forward by Kazakhstan. Twenty-five years ago, Kazakhstan permanently closed the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. We were the first and, for now, only such country to take this action. Our newly independent State then voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest arsenal of nuclear weapons: the menacing legacy of the collapsed Soviet Union. These decisions triggered a moratorium on conducting nuclear tests by world nuclear Powers. Twenty years ago, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was developed in the United Nations and put forward to Member States to sign, but has still to come into force. Under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Kazakhstan is to host the low-enriched uranium bank on its territory, which will allow countries to develop civilian nuclear energy. Global nuclear security

summits are of great importance. We now need global decisions to prohibit deploying lethal weapons in outer space, on the seabed and in international waters of the world's oceans, as well as in the Arctic. We should develop and adopt international binding agreements to ban the creation of new types of weapons of mass destruction through new scientific discoveries. It is necessary to create a register in the United Nations of such scientific developments, which could be used for the creation and advancement of weapons of mass destruction.

Second, we must build on and expand existing geographical initiatives to gradually eliminate war as a way of life. There are already six nuclear-weapon-free zones in the world. They encompass Antarctica and virtually the entire southern hemisphere, including Latin America, Africa, Australia and Oceania. The newest is a zone free of nuclear weapons in Central Asia, created 10 years ago in Semipalatinsk by five States of the region. Now we must intensify international efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In 1992, Kazakhstan put forward the initiative to convene the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia. This century, the forum has been successfully institutionalized, with the participation of 26 Member States of the continent, the United Nations and other international organizations. Multilateral cooperation among the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan within the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has had a positive impact. Peace zones in South America, the South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean have significant potential. We should bring together these initiatives to create global areas of peace based on a special international law. Issues of security and development in these areas of peace could be guaranteed by all the States Members of the United Nations and the Security Council.

Third, it is necessary to eliminate such relics of the cold war as military blocs, which threaten global security and impede broader international cooperation. Geopolitical reality means that, when one military bloc is established and developed, an opposing bloc will be created. Power generates anti-power. Military blocs can include countries that are not always aware of their responsibility to promote peace and security. We have also seen attempts by some States to use the protection of military blocs to their advantage in their interactions with third countries, including immediate neighbours. It is how confrontation can be infinitely cloned in different regions and globally. We should also have learned from past wars and conflicts that it is impossible to ensure our own security by undermining the security of others. That is why a global coalition of States for peace, stability, trust and security under United Nations auspices should be set up against military blocs. Our common task for the next decade should be to end wars and conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and eastern Ukraine, as well as the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation. We must reduce the dangerous potential of the situations on the Korean Peninsula, the basin of the South China Sea and the Arctic.

Fourth, it is important to adapt the international disarmament process to the new historic conditions. A short-sighted dismantlement of previous treaty limitations on anti-missile systems and conventional arms has resulted in militarization in the political space of Eurasia. This increases the risk of a new global war, even by the possible failure of electronic defence management systems. We need a new strategy for the Conference on Disarmament. The world needs to

eliminate the new threat of cybercrime, which can become a very dangerous weapon if used by terrorists.

Fifth, a world without war requires primarily fair global competition in international trade, finance and development. At the seventieth session of the General Assembly, Kazakhstan proposed the development of a 2045 global strategic initiative plan. Its main goal is to eliminate the root causes of wars and conflicts. This can best be achieved through equal and fair access to infrastructure, resources and markets for all nations. The plan should be implemented in time for the 100th anniversary of the United Nations, in 2045. Kazakhstan proposes to convene a high-level United Nations conference in 2016. At this conference, we should confirm the basic principles of international law to prevent devastating wars and conflicts in the twenty-first century.

Calls for reason and dialogue, restraint and common sense should not be the targets of attacks by those opposing global peace. In the twenty-first century, we all need peace. This is a key mission of our time. Peace is worth fighting for, just as deliberately and persistently as did people in the past century. We should think hard about the future of our children and grandchildren. We must combine the efforts of Governments, politicians, scientists, entrepreneurs, artists and millions of people around the world in order to prevent a repetition of tragic mistakes of past centuries and spare the world from the threat of war. Failing to act or putting limits on efforts to promote peace risks global catastrophe.

My manifesto, "The world, the twenty-first century", reflects a sincere concern for the fate of future generations who will live and work in the coming decades. We, the leaders of States and politicians, bear an enormous responsibility for the future of humanity. As an individual who went through hardship and difficulties, and as a statesman who made a difficult decision to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and renounce nuclear weapons, I urgently call on world leaders and the entire international community to listen to reason. We need to do our utmost to free humanity from the threat of deadly wars forever. There is no more important goal.